

Provo Owes Debt to Anderson

Herold 11-27-84

It's seldom that a mayor is remembered with a monument to his accomplishments ... and a city facility named for him.

One of Provo's past mayors is honored in this manner.

As you approach the city's electric-water-sanitation operations center at 251 W. 800 N., you walk past the granite marker with a bronze plate bearing an inscription:

~~"Mark Anderson Utility Center. Dedicated to the memory of Mark Anderson, public servant, forester, writer, artist. Father of Provo City Power."~~

From the time he entered Provo politics in the early 30s, Anderson was a man with a program — municipal power.

He skillfully steered his controversial proposals through debates, legislative steps, elections and opposing lawsuits in what became known as Provo's "power fight."

In a climactic 1939 election, the mayor and his administration received landslide endorsement of their program. Three anti-power propositions lost by wide margins. Anderson and his city commission ally, J. P. McGuire, were re-elected.

The Provo steam electric plant began operating in 1940. How has it benefited the citizenry?

From the beginning, consumers have enjoyed lower power rates, and the cost of street

lighting (there are 3,700 to 4,000 lights) is absorbed by the system.

Provo City Power also subsidizes city operations with a handsome annual contribution to the general fund, as the late Mayor Anderson had promised. Here are the allocations for the past three fiscal years: 1980-81, \$1,035,224; 1981-82, \$1,128,544, and 1982-83, \$1,340,402.

The figure could reach an all-time high of \$1.5 million this year, according to Bud L. Bonnett, director of the electric department. If that much revenue were to be raised from taxes, an added levy of 6 to 7 mills would be required, the county auditor's office estimates.

The formula for transfer of electric department revenues to the general fund — currently 10 percent of gross receipts — is set by the Provo Power Board chairman by Dr. Wilmer Tanner.

Kilowatt consumption since Provo City Power began with a 2,000-k.w. plant 44 years ago has increased tremendously. Today peak loads are at 84,000 k.w.

Meantime the role of the city facility has changed markedly. Close to 80 percent of the power now used is produced through the Colorado River Storage Project. The municipal plant's main function is to provide peak-time support.

Mark Anderson was elected to



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job pretty much full-time though the salary in the 30s was a meager \$1,800 a year. (Provo's current mayor now receives \$41,900.)

I remember that during the bitter power fight Anderson debated silver-tongued Adam S. Bennion of Utah Power & Light Co. on the issue. Armed with facts and sincere conviction, he won increased respect from his constituency.

With his thorough knowledge and administrative prowess, Mark was a "city manager" himself, you might say. Yet he stoutly opposed the council-manager system voted in during the mid-50s.

He believed, among other things, that the manager system removed city government further from the people. His efforts as strategist and organizer in support of Verl G. Dixon, chairman of a citizens committee, were instrumental in defeating the system and returning to the commission setup for a sustained period.

Mark was a talented artist. For a long time many of his wildlife paintings graced Hotel Roberts, of which he was co-owner. In recent years most of the art has been moved to homes of family members.

Anderson's prime contribution to the people, of course, was Provo City Power. The granite marker is a good reminder of that legacy.

four two-year terms as mayor. After serving 1936-41, he resigned during his third term to become Utah Fish and Game director. Maurice Harding was appointed to finish his term, then won two mayor elections of his own before retiring from city politics. Mark re-entered the scene to again become mayor, 1946-47.

A few personal memories of Anderson, reaching back to my years as a reporter covering the city hall:

He was intelligent and capable, of strong will, yet modest and gentlemanly, with an eye-twinkling sense of humor. This hard-working mayor made the

day with the plastic and metal artificial heart, which was implanted Sunday in the world's second such operation.

Under sedation to lessen discomfort from a breathing tube, which prevented his speaking, Schroeder was able to squeeze his wife's hand in response to questions.

The family was interviewed by two reporters from the news-

paper and radio station from their hometown of Jasper, Ind., at the request of Schroeder, who said before his operation he wanted the hometown news media to get the story first.

The family said they were taking the operation one step at a time.

"I think we're just kind of

doing it day by day," Melvin Schroeder, 21, said. "Our feelings have always been the same. Dad wants to go through with this and we're all behind him 100 percent."

The family issued a statement thanking Humana, the hospital and staff, Dr. Barney Clark —

the world's first recipient of a permanent artificial heart who lived 112 days on the device — and the thousands of people sending them good wishes.

"We are extremely proud of Dad and we're cautiously optimistic on the progress," they said in the statement.

Mechanical Heart 'Too Costly'

BOSTON (UPI) — The mechanical heart that beats in the chest of William Schroeder is a costly misapplication of medical research, the dean of the Harvard School of Public Health says.

"The artificial heart, even if it were to work, would be a very expensive way to save lives," said Dr. Harvey Fineberg, an expert on cost-benefit analysis in medical care.

Fineberg Monday said use of the artificial heart is not justified by either animal research

or the results of the 1982 artificial heart experiment with Dr. Barney Clark.

He said the \$150,000 or more being spent on Schroeder's treatment at Humana Hospital Audubon, in Louisville, Ky., could be invested in better ways, such as educating people to stop smoking.

"As a research investment, there are many other possibilities that offer greater promise," said Fineberg, who decided to speak out on the artificial program because it

"distorts" research priorities.

"I don't mean to downplay the bravery of this individual and his family for embarking on this experiment. But someone has to speak up for the thousands of people whose names are not on everybody's lips, who are dying just as surely as Mr. Schroeder, and whose deaths are preventable."

Fineberg's opinion was echoed by the director of Boston University's School of Public Health, Prof. Norman Scotch, who called the experimental

program "a bad investment."

"I think there's a technological imperative that's almost impossible to stop. Technology is where the action is," Scotch said. "There's no action in improving gerontological care or in preventive health."

Both men also expressed concern that the nation's artificial heart program is under the auspices of a for-profit hospital chain rather than a federally funded institution based at a university.

DeVries Wants to Wait on Next Implant

By AL ROSSITER Jr.
UPI Science Editor

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (UPI) — Surgeons would like to wait until artificial heart patient William Schroeder is out of intensive care and walking before proceeding with another implant, Dr. William DeVries said today.

and in fairly stable condition," he said.

Dr. Allan Lansing, director of the Humana Heart Institute International, said doctors already are evaluating two potential candidates — one from Tennessee and one from Minnesota. Their hometowns were not revealed to protect their privacy.

tain two artificial heart implants, with two specially equipped cardiac care units with the ability to support the drive units necessary to power the plastic and titanium heart.

Lansing said the two possible candidates for an artificial heart were admitted to the hospital for testing Sunday and

permission to implant a total of seven artificial hearts on an experimental basis. These include the units implanted in Clark and Schroeder.

Before Schroeder was selected, DeVries said he had a "handful or two handfuls" of possible mechanical heart recipients. Schroeder was selected